



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection
www.senate.mo.gov/crowell

PROMISES MADE, PROMISES KEPT

This Issue:

Promises Kept in 2005

- ☒ Unleash Missouri's Economic Growth
- ☒ Improve Missouri Schools
- ☒ Fight the War on Meth

Promises to be Kept in 2006

- ☐ Increase Access to Health Care
- ☐ Develop Alternative Fuels
- ☐ Stop Eminent Domain Abuses



On a recent tour of district elementary schools, Senator Crowell visited fifth graders from A. J. Martin Elementary in East Prairie.

Promise Kept:

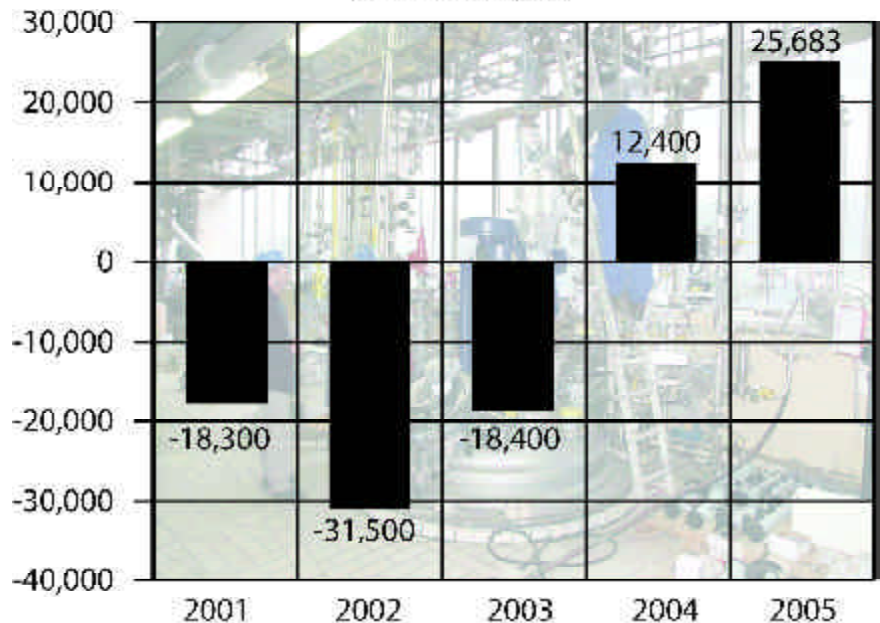
Unleash Missouri's Economic Growth

To help Missourians find high-paying, quality jobs, I worked last year to pass much-needed junk-lawsuit and workers' compensation reforms during the 2005 legislative session. I also helped pass the Missouri Quality Jobs Act, which established financial incentives to attract employers to Missouri. Finally, to avoid killing Missouri's economic growth, the General Assembly held the line on your taxes.

Our vision is paying off. According to the Department of Economic Development, Missouri created more than 25,000 new jobs last year. This means that more Missourians are working and paying taxes, rather than fewer Missourians paying more in taxes.

Another sign that our vision is working is that employers are taking advantage of the Missouri Quality Jobs Act. For example, in December 2005, the Chrysler group announced plans to invest \$1 billion in Missouri. Other firms such as Express Scripts, Pfizer and T-Mobile have also taken advantage of the tax incentives.

POSITIVE CHANGES IN MISSOURI EMPLOYMENT
(Non-Farm Jobs)



Promise Kept: *Improve Missouri Schools*

We kept our promise to develop a better way to fund schools. The new education-funding formula guarantees that the state will spend at least \$6,117 per student, ensuring that every district in the state of Missouri has the basic resources needed to educate a child.

We also adopted the largest education budget in state history, adding \$158 million last

year. We will add an additional \$167 million this year, for a two-year increase of \$325 million. The table above shows the funding increase that school districts in the 27th Senate district will receive.

STATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION:

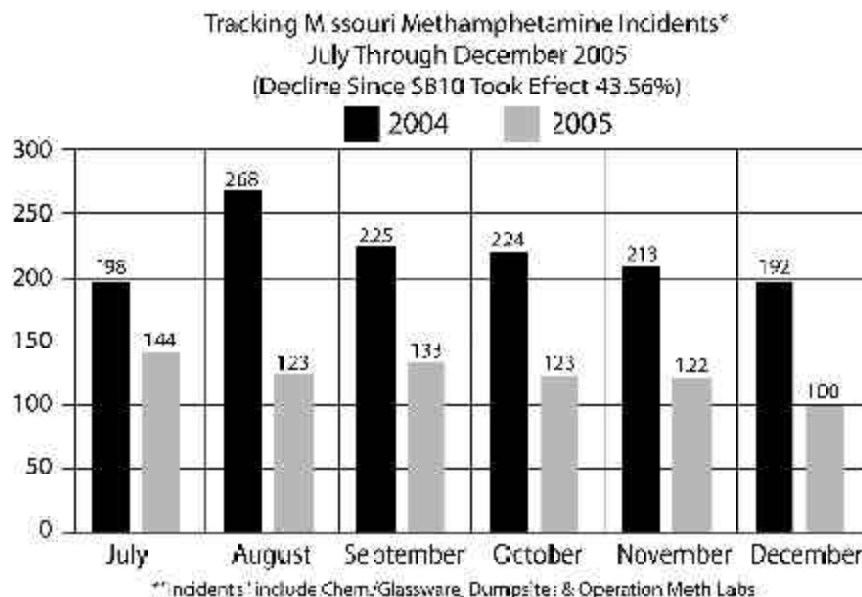
School District	2006 Total State Funding	2007 \$ Increase	2007 % Increase	2007 Total State Funding
MEADOW HEIGHTS R-II	\$1,857,330	\$95,495	5.14%	\$1,952,825
LEOPOLD R-III	\$739,643	\$94,245	12.74%	\$833,888
ZALMA R-V	\$940,651	\$117,827	12.53%	\$1,058,478
WOODLAND R-IV	\$2,742,319	\$189,430	6.91%	\$2,931,749
JACKSON R-II	\$9,775,682	\$772,507	7.90%	\$10,548,189
DELTA R-V	\$1,214,249	\$128,958	10.62%	\$1,343,207
OAK RIDGE R-VI	\$1,047,365	\$83,721	7.99%	\$1,131,086
CAPE GIRARDEAU 63	\$5,240,766	\$418,188	7.98%	\$5,658,954
NELL HOLCOMB R-IV	\$795,759	\$68,085	8.56%	\$863,844
MARQUAND-ZION R-VI	\$663,546	\$110,738	16.69%	\$774,284
FREDERICKTOWN R-I	\$5,929,216	\$224,090	3.78%	\$6,153,306
EAST PRAIRIE R-II	\$3,389,592	\$224,738	6.63%	\$3,614,330
CHARLESTON R-I	\$3,819,109	\$262,936	6.88%	\$4,082,045
PERRY CO. 32	\$3,455,256	\$225,640	6.53%	\$3,680,896
ALTENBURG 48	\$228,180	\$31,526	13.82%	\$259,706
SCOTT CITY R-I	\$2,830,663	\$192,455	6.80%	\$3,023,118
CHAFFEE R-II	\$1,867,565	\$84,034	4.50%	\$1,951,599
SCOTT CO. R-IV	\$2,850,917	\$218,534	7.67%	\$3,069,451
SCOTT CO. CENTRAL	\$1,565,039	\$73,633	4.70%	\$1,638,672
SIKESTON R-VI	\$11,798,090	\$593,063	5.03%	\$12,391,153
KELSO C-7	\$288,490	\$50,489	17.50%	\$338,979
ORAN R-III	\$1,217,203	\$145,548	11.96%	\$1,362,751
TOTALS	\$64,256,630	\$4,405,880	8.77% (avg.)	\$68,662,510

Promise Kept: *Fight the War on Meth*

I worked to pass legislation in the Missouri Senate aimed at curbing the production of methamphetamine, which had reached epidemic proportions in Missouri. The bill hit its mark.

Since the legislation became law last July, the number of meth incidents in Missouri has been cut almost in half. This is important progress in our mission to cut off meth manufacturers' access to the key ingredients in making the highly addictive drug.

The graph on the right indicates the decrease of incidents involving meth labs over the past six months.



Promise to be Kept: *Increase Access to Health Care*

In Missouri, nearly 12 percent of hardworking citizens employed by small businesses are uninsured because their employers can only obtain health plans with much higher premiums than those charged to larger businesses, whose larger workforces increase insurance buying power. Employees of small businesses that do provide health insurance tend to pay 17 percent more for coverage than those working for larger businesses.

I believe that every working family in Missouri should have access to quality, affordable health care, not just those who work for large corporations. Missouri law currently prevents small businesses from forming associations for the sole purpose of obtaining insurance. My legislation, Senate Bill 663, removes this restriction thereby enabling small businesses and the self-employed to band together and form employer purchasing alliances to purchase health insurance.

By increasing buying power and gaining efficiencies, it is estimated that employer purchasing alliances will reduce their health



Senator Crowell presents a resolution to Stephen Mills, owner of Joey's Seafood & Grill in Cape Girardeau, during a business showcase breakfast at the Capitol. SB 663 would allow Joey's to band together with other small businesses to reduce their health insurance costs.

insurance costs by 15 to 30 percent. This means more working Missourians will have access to health care.

Promise to be Kept: *Develop Alternative Fuels*

We are the world's largest consumer of oil, but we depend on some of the most politically and economically unstable countries to supply us with roughly 64 percent of our crude oil, a figure that is expected to balloon to 77 percent by 2025. To reduce our dependence on the Middle East and to develop an alternative source of energy, we will fully fund ethanol incentive programs and create a standard that gasoline sold in Missouri be blended with at least 10 percent ethanol.

Ethanol is produced by fermenting agricultural products such as corn. The United States is the world's largest producer and exporter of corn. To meet the 10 percent requirement, the state will need 260 to 280 million gallons of ethanol, which will result in \$15 million every year for Missouri corn producers. This will truly create a win-win situation, as we will reduce dependence on foreign oil and give our state's agriculture industry a major and lasting boost.



Sen. Crowell listens to former State Rep. David Schwab, who shares Sen. Crowell's views on the future of Missouri agriculture.

Promise to be Kept: *Stop Eminent Domain Abuses*

In last year's U.S. Supreme Court's case, *Kelo v. City of New London*, private developers sought to condemn waterfront homes in order to build an office complex, hotel, health club and upscale apartments. When the homeowners refused to sell, the city condemned their property using eminent domain. The city claimed that condemning the homes did indeed serve a "public use," in the form of job creation and increased tax revenues. The U.S. Supreme Court sided with the city, thereby expanding the scope of eminent domain to include a broadly defined "public use."

It is wrong for cities and municipalities to use eminent domain to force people from their homes in order to generate more tax revenue. I am committed to passing legislation that protects homeowners, farmers and small businesses from cities and municipalities that abuse their power of eminent domain. Missouri's laws must be clear and allow the use of eminent domain only when a traditional public



use exists. I will also fight to include measures that will assist property owners in the condemnation process to help them protect what is theirs and ensure that they receive fair value for their property.

Senator Crowell's

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State Senator Jason Crowell LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

It is an honor and a privilege to represent your interests in the Missouri Senate. As a member of the Missouri Senate, I am faced with many important issues directly affecting all of our lives. I believe our government functions best when it is responsive to the needs of citizens. With this in mind, I would appreciate you taking a few moments to express your views on the issues listed in this survey.

I value your comments and your involvement in the operation of our state government. Should you ever have a question, comment or concern, feel free to contact me at 573-751-2459, or e-mail me at jcrowell@senate.mo.gov.



On the web: www.senate.mo.gov/crowell

Eminent Domain

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled private land can be seized if local governments can find a more productive use for it. The U.S. Constitution states that property cannot be taken "for public use, without just compensation." Traditionally public use meant building government facilities such as schools, or infrastructure, such as highways.

Do you think the government should continue to have the right to take property for a traditional public use, such as a highway or public school that would benefit all citizens?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Should governments have the right to take private property from one owner and give it to a private developer for such projects as building a strip mall or hotel?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Tax Increase

Increasing taxes has been suggested as a way to jump-start government spending. Proponents argue that tax increases are needed to prevent cuts to social services and provide additional funds to government services. Opponents believe taxpayers already pay enough in taxes, and government needs to be more responsible and efficient with taxpayer money.

Please mark the box next to the response that best expresses your views.

☐ I do not want any additional taxes.

☐ I would support additional statewide taxes in order to maintain current levels of state services.



The River Campus at Southeast Missouri State University will greatly improve our university and region. The total cost of the project is \$48.9 million, with the state paying \$21.8 million, the university paying \$11.1 million, the city of Cape Girardeau paying \$8.9 million and federal funding of \$7.1 million. Do you support the River Campus?

☐ **YES** - Comments: _____

☐ **NO** - Comments: _____



In 2004, voters approved Amendment 3, meaning motor vehicle fuel taxes and vehicle sales taxes must go directly toward constructing and improving highways, roads and bridges. However, more funding is needed to complete highway improvement projects across the state, such as adding a third lane to each side of I-70. Some contend that charging tolls for I-70 travelers is the only way to ensure that out-of-state motorists help pay for the wear their vehicles cause to the interstate. Opponents argue that Missourians should not have to pay a toll for what they have already paid for through taxes.

Please mark the box next to the response that best expresses your views.

- ☐ I support the use of toll roads to fund only the building of new highways and bridges.
- ☐ I support the use of toll roads to fund building new highways and bridges and improving existing roads and bridges.
- ☐ I oppose the use of toll roads in Missouri.

Please fold survey in thirds, tape closed, place 39-cent postage stamp on it and mail. Thanks!

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